PRICES MONITORING SURVEY

DECEMBER 1999

MBS 99-12

PRICE: $25

MARCH 2000

Manitoba
Bureau of
Statistics

Introduction:

In December of each year, the Manitoba Bureau of Statistics (MBS) conducts the Food Prices Monitoring Survey. The survey's objective is to collect, tabulate and disseminate current information on the relative cost of food for home consumption in various Manitoba communities. Geographically, the survey includes Winnipeg and Brandon in southern Manitoba as well as a number of communities in northern Manitoba.

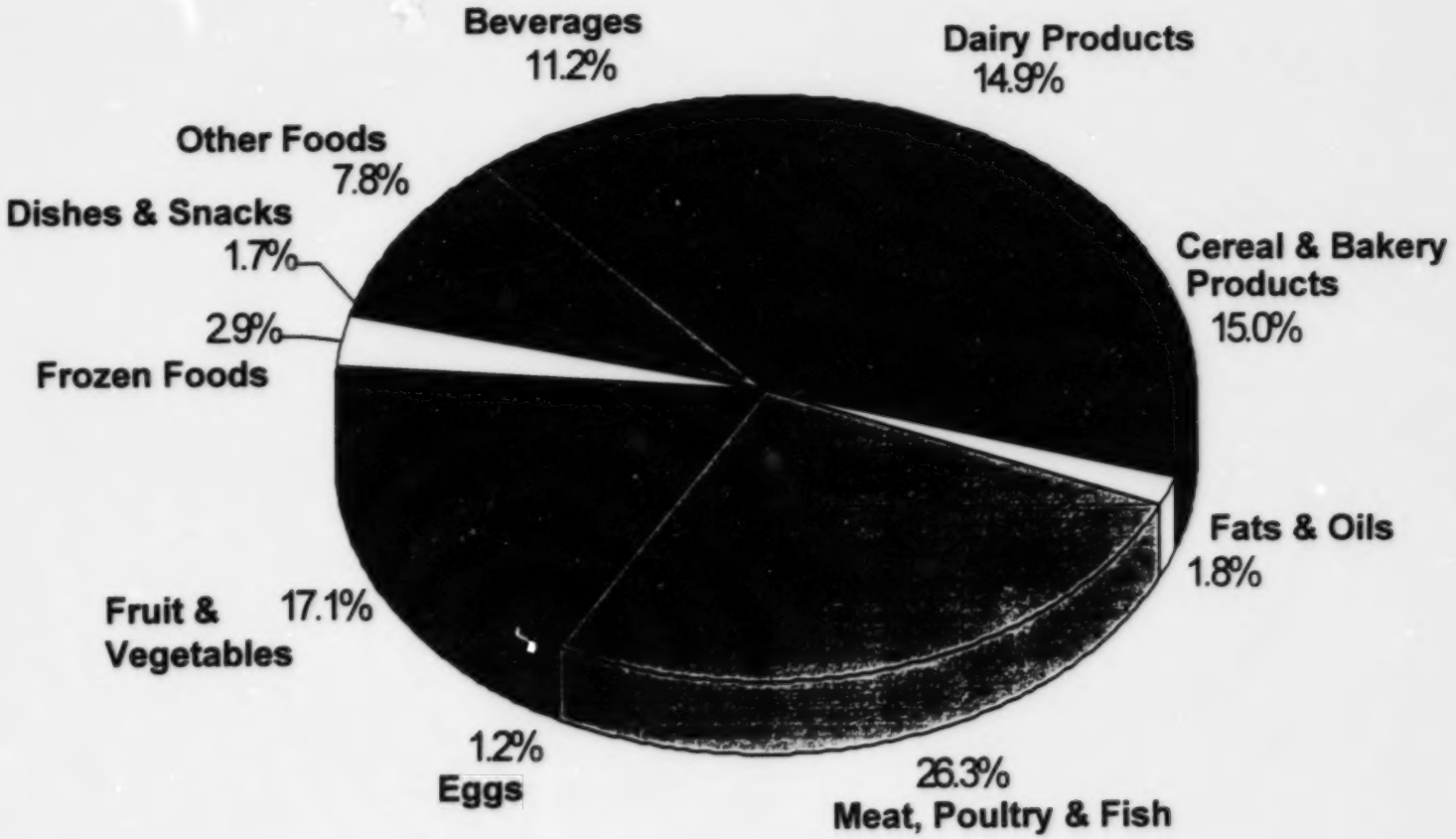
A Winnipeg weighting scheme, containing food weights from the Consumer Price Index, is used for all communities. This assumes that residents in the other communities have a similar food consumption pattern to Winnipeg residents. That is, they spend the same proportion of their food dollar on the various food groups.

Table 1 presents the spatial indices for the 17 communities surveyed in December 1999. A spatial index is a place-to-place comparison of prices at a particular point in time. In the MBS survey, the reference community is Winnipeg. Thus, calculated spatial indices represent the relative price differential between each community and Winnipeg.

Table 2 presents the average prices, on a matched brand basis, of a subset of the food items priced in Winnipeg and the other 17 communities in December 1999.

Tables 3 and 4, in the appendix, present the spatial indices and the average prices of a subset of the food items sampled in the December 1998 Survey.

1999 Food Group Weights



Manitoba Bureau of Statistics
Prices Monitoring Survey, 1999

I. Spatial Food Indices:

Spatial Food Indices were produced for 17 Manitoba communities in 1999. Community indices range from a low of 102.1 for Brandon to a high of 194.1 for Island Lake. That is, on a weighted average basis Brandon prices are 2.1% higher than Winnipeg prices and Island Lake prices are 94.1% higher than Winnipeg prices.

Indices are calculated by comparing the average price of food items from retail stores in each community to the average price of the same item (matched for brand and size) from Winnipeg's major retail grocery chains. The survey is based upon a food basket containing ten food groups weighted with the current Consumer Price Index food weights for Winnipeg, as follows.

FOOD GROUP	GROUP WEIGHT (%)
Dairy Products	14.9
Cereal & Bakery Products	15.0
Fats & Oils	1.8
Meat, Poultry & Fish	26.3
Eggs	1.2
Fruit & Vegetables	17.1
Frozen Foods	2.9
Dishes & Snacks	1.7
Other Foods	7.8
Beverages	11.2
TOTAL FOOD BASKET	100.0 %

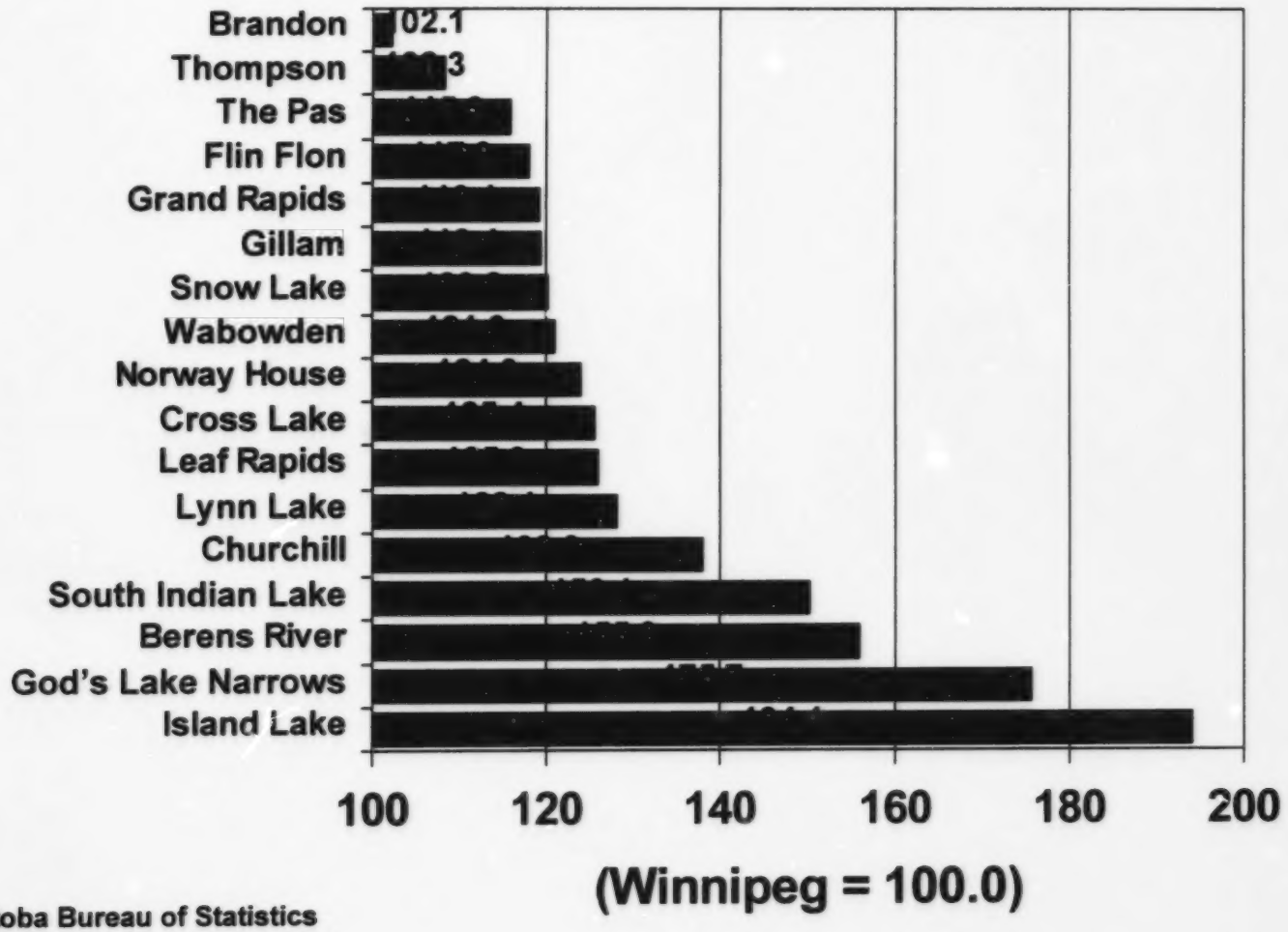
In the 1999 survey, as for previous years, the larger communities have the lowest indices; Brandon at 102.1, Thompson at 108.3, The Pas at 115.9 and Flin Flon at 117.9.

Eight other communities have indices under 130.0: Grand Rapids at 119.1, Gillam at 119.4, Snow Lake at 120.2, Wabowden at 121.0, Norway House at 124.0, Cross Lake at 125.4, Leaf Rapids at 125.9 and Lynn Lake at 128.1.

The food price index for Churchill is estimated at 138.0, South Indian Lake is estimated at 150.1 and Berens River is estimated at 155.9.

The two communities with the highest indices in 1999, as for previous years, are God's Lake Narrows at 175.7 and Island Lake at 194.1.

1999 Food Price Indices



Manitoba Bureau of Statistics
Prices Monitoring Survey, 1999

Communities with the Lowest Indices:

Four communities consistently have the lowest food price indices in comparison to Winnipeg. For 1999 these indices are Brandon at 102.1, Thompson at 108.3, The Pas at 115.9 and Flin Flon at 117.9. All of these communities' indices are slightly lower than in 1998.

In Brandon, food group indices range from 100.5 for Dairy Products to 104.0 for Frozen Foods. Brandon has the lowest index for all 10 food groups among the 17 communities surveyed.

Thompson has the second lowest index for all food groups except Fats & Oils and Meat, Poultry & Fish. Gillam has the lowest Fats & Oils index at 105.2, and three communities have a lower Meat, Poultry & Fish index than Thompson; Snow Lake at 105.7, Flin Flon at 107.9 and Wabowden at 109.0.

Thompson, with an overall food price index of 108.3, has food group indices ranging from 104.2 for Eggs to 110.9 for Dairy Products; a spread of only 6.7 points between highest and lowest food groups. The next highest food group indices in Thompson are for Meat, Poultry & Fish at 110.7 and Other Foods at 109.7. The next lowest food group indices are 104.6 for Dishes & Snacks and 105.9 for Fruit & Vegetables.

The Pas has an overall food price index of 115.9. Food group indices range from 110.3 for Frozen Foods to 128.6 for Eggs; a range of 18.3 points. The next highest food group indices in The Pas are 127.0 for Beverages and 121.0 for Dairy Products. The next lowest food group indices are 110.4 for Dishes & Snacks and 110.6 for Cereal & Bakery Products.

Flin Flon has an overall food price index of 117.9, with food group indices ranging from 107.9 for Meat, Poultry & Fish to 140.2 for Beverages; a range of 32.3 points. The next highest food group indices in Flin Flon are 123.3 for Fruit & Vegetables and 120.8 for Fats & Oils. The next lowest food group indices are 112.4 for Eggs and 114.3 for Other Foods.

Flin Flon has a lower index than The Pas in 4 of the 10 food groups (Dairy Products; Meat, Poultry & Fish; Eggs and Other Foods) which together account for 50.2% of the cost of an average family's groceries according to the food group weights assigned.

TABLE 1: SPATIAL RETAIL FOOD PRICE INDICES FOR SELECTED MANITOBA COMMUNITIES

DECEMBER, 1999

FOOD GROUPS	BERENS RIVER	BRANDON	CHURCHILL	CROSS LAKE	FLIN FLON	GILLAM	GOD'S LAKE NARROWS	GRAND RAPIDS	ISLAND LAKE
				(WINNIPEG = 100.0)					
DAIRY PRODUCTS	187.5	100.5	151.8	130.6	115.1	126.0	199.5	125.1	228.3
CEREAL & BAKERY PRODUCTS	152.3	102.3	133.6	120.1	117.1	112.4	167.1	113.7	172.0
FATS & OILS	137.6	103.8	122.2	122.5	120.8	105.2	134.2	106.2	157.9
MEAT, POULTRY & FISH	127.7	102.6	124.7	115.8	107.9	117.8	141.1	109.7	161.9
Meat	130.4	103.2	130.3	114.8	108.8	115.9	137.7	109.3	154.7
Poultry	124.5	101.0	107.9	116.4	105.3	130.0	156.0	108.1	193.2
Fish	116.2	101.7	119.7	120.9	106.7	107.5	135.9	115.6	150.6
EGGS	132.0	103.4	119.6	129.5	112.4	113.7	168.3	135.7	193.7
FRUIT & VEGETABLES	178.1	101.6	138.2	129.6	123.3	125.4	202.6	130.7	224.7
Fresh Fruit	189.5	102.4	139.4	130.1	121.3	141.2	212.4	132.0	253.8
Processed Fruit	148.6	100.4	152.3	131.0	141.9	119.6	220.2	115.8	224.7
Fresh Vegetables	194.0	100.9	129.0	127.8	112.3	116.0	185.7	141.7	205.9
Processed Vegetables	152.9	104.6	130.0	130.4	122.5	112.7	179.9	124.7	178.9
FROZEN FOODS	147.7	104.0	132.7	117.6	119.7	108.2	162.9	113.8	172.4
DISHES & SNACKS	151.5	103.2	130.6	116.1	116.6	114.8	155.7	107.1	179.4
OTHER FOODS	153.2	103.5	138.6	124.3	114.3	112.2	172.2	115.9	165.7
BEVERAGES	161.0	101.9	162.8	146.2	140.2	126.3	211.5	128.3	240.9
COMMUNITY INDEX	155.9	102.1	138.0	125.4	117.9	119.4	175.7	119.1	194.1

... DATA NOT AVAILABLE

DATA SOURCE: MANITOBA BUREAU OF STATISTICS
PRICES MONITORING SURVEY

Communities With Medium Low Indices (under 130):

Eight of the communities surveyed have relatively low indices (i.e., under 130.0); Grand Rapids at 119.1, Gillam at 119.4, Snow Lake at 120.2, Wabowden at 121.0, Norway House at 124.0, Cross Lake at 125.4, Leaf Rapids at 125.9 and Lynn Lake at 128.1. All of these communities' indices are also slightly lower than in 1998.

Meat, Poultry & Fish is the food group with the lowest index in 5 of these 8 communities, as well as having the third lowest index in Grand Rapids. Fats & Oils has the lowest food group index in Grand Rapids, Gillam and Leaf Rapids, and third lowest index in Norway House and Lynn Lake.

Beverages, on the other hand, has the highest index in 6 of these 8 communities, as well as being second highest in Wabowden and third highest in Grand Rapids. The index for Dairy Products is comparatively high in Gillam, Snow Lake, Norway House, Cross Lake and Leaf Rapids.

In Grand Rapids, the food group with the highest prices relative to Winnipeg is Eggs at 135.7, followed by Fruit & Vegetables at 130.7 and Beverages at 128.3. The food groups with prices closest to Winnipeg are Fats & Oils at 106.2, Dishes & Snacks at 107.1 and Meat, Poultry & Fish at 109.7.

Fats & Oils also has the lowest food group index in Gillam at 105.2, and Leaf Rapids at 111.9. In Gillam, Frozen Foods has the second lowest food group index at 108.2, followed by Other Foods at 112.2. The highest food group indices for Gillam are Beverages at 126.3, Dairy Products at 126.0 and Fruit & Vegetables at 125.4. Cross Lake has the same three highest food groups, but their indices are consistently higher than in Gillam; Beverages is 146.2, Dairy Products is 130.6 and Fruit & Vegetables is 129.6.

Meat, Poultry & Fish has the lowest food group index in each of Snow Lake (105.7), Wabowden (109.0), Norway House (113.8), Lynn Lake (115.0) and Cross Lake (115.8). A relatively low index for Meat, Poultry & Fish results in lower community food price indices, since this food group accounts for 26.3% (i.e., over ¼) of the cost of an average family's groceries.

Dishes & Snacks has the second lowest food group index in each of Grand Rapids (107.1), Snow Lake (110.9), Norway House (114.5) and Cross Lake (116.1). Eggs is second lowest in Leaf Rapids (113.8) and Lynn Lake (125.1), and third lowest in Snow Lake (116.0).

TABLE 1: (Cont.) **SPATIAL RETAIL FOOD PRICE INDICES FOR SELECTED MANITOBA COMMUNITIES**

DECEMBER, 1999

FOOD GROUPS	LEAF RAPIDS	LYNN LAKE	NORWAY HOUSE	SNOW LAKE	SOUTH INDIAN LAKE	THE PAS	THOMPSON	WABOWDEN
				(WINNIPEG = 100.0)				
DAIRY PRODUCTS	129.7	129.9	129.8	127.8	190.6	121.0	110.9	124.1
CEREAL & BAKERY PRODUCTS	123.4	127.1	121.9	125.2	138.7	110.6	106.0	117.2
FATS & OILS	111.9	125.4	118.7	122.0	132.9	115.8	106.1	125.2
MEAT, POULTRY & FISH	126.6	115.0	113.8	105.7	132.9	113.7	110.7	109.0
Meat	131.1	117.3	115.7	107.3	141.1	112.0	112.6	111.6
Poultry	117.1	108.8	109.4	101.0	119.5	122.3	106.5	99.1
Fish	115.7	111.9	109.5	103.6	105.1	109.2	105.7	110.5
EGGS	113.8	125.1	132.1	116.0	154.1	128.6	104.2	132.6
FRUIT & VEGETABLES	125.3	133.3	122.5	118.1	151.0	112.6	105.9	118.1
Fresh Fruit	133.6	134.2	124.7	113.8	169.2	110.8	104.5	118.7
Processed Fruit	131.8	131.8	126.0	135.9	129.5	123.9	107.9	126.6
Fresh Vegetables	112.2	133.7	116.1	107.5	150.6	105.3	106.3	110.8
Processed Vegetables	123.4	132.6	128.0	126.9	137.1	116.0	104.5	119.9
FROZEN FOODS	120.0	137.4	120.0	130.5	147.4	110.3	106.8	130.0
DISHES & SNACKS	122.0	126.0	114.5	110.9	138.1	110.4	104.6	118.9
OTHER FOODS	121.7	137.5	129.0	123.0	135.6	116.2	109.7	140.7
BEVERAGES	132.0	142.0	144.2	137.3	164.9	127.0	106.4	136.6
COMMUNITY INDEX	125.9	128.1	124.0	120.2	150.1	115.9	108.3	121.0

... DATA NOT AVAILABLE

DATA SOURCE: MANITOBA BUREAU OF STATISTICS
PRICES MONITORING SURVEY

Communities With Medium High Indices (from 130 to 160):

Three communities in the December 1999 survey are identified as having medium high indices (i.e., between 130.0 and 160.0): Churchill at 138.0, South Indian Lake at 150.1 and Berens River at 155.9. All of these communities' indices are slightly higher than in 1998. These three communities are more remote (i.e., more difficult to get to) than all the communities with lower indices, but more accessible than the 2 remaining communities with indices in excess of 160.0.

In both South Indian Lake and Berens River, the food group with the lowest index is Meat, Poultry & Fish (132.9 and 127.7 respectively), while in Churchill, Eggs is lowest (119.6) and Meat, Poultry & Fish is third lowest (124.7).

Eggs has the second lowest food group index in Berens River (132.0), but the third highest index in South Indian Lake (154.1). Fats & Oils is second lowest in Churchill (122.2) and South Indian Lake (132.9) and third lowest in Berens River (137.6).

In both South Indian Lake and Berens River, the food group with the highest index is Dairy Products (190.9 and 187.5 respectively). In Churchill, Beverages (162.8) is highest and Dairy Products (151.8) second highest. Dairy Products represents 14.9% of the cost of food for home consumption, while Beverages accounts for 11.9%.

Communities With the Highest Indices (greater than 160):

God's Lake Narrows and Island Lake consistently have the highest food price indices among communities surveyed each year. For December 1999, these indices are 175.7 for God's Lake Narrows and 194.1 for Island Lake. These communities' indices are considerably higher than in 1998.

Island Lake has the highest index among communities surveyed for 9 of the 10 food groups. God's Lake Narrows has the highest index for Other Foods (172.2), and second highest index for all but 1 of the other 9 food groups. Berens River has the second highest index for the Fats & Oils food group; 137.6 compared to 134.2 in God's Lake Narrows and 157.9 in Island Lake.

In both God's Lake Narrows and Island Lake Beverages has the highest food group index; 211.5 in God's Lake Narrows and 240.9 in Island Lake. Fruit & Vegetables has the second highest index in God's Lake Narrows, at 202.6, followed by Dairy Products at 199.5. These food groups are reversed in Island Lake; Dairy Products is 228.3 and Fruit & Vegetables is 224.7.

In both God's Lake Narrows and Island Lake Fats & Oils has the lowest food group index (134.2 in God's Lake Narrows and 157.9 in Island Lake) and Meat, Poultry & Fish has the second lowest index (141.1 in God's Lake Narrows and 161.9 in Island Lake).

TABLE 2: AVERAGE RETAIL FOOD PRICES FOR SELECTED MANITOBA COMMUNITIES

DECEMBER, 1999

FOOD ITEMS	BERENS RIVER	BRANDON	CHURCHILL	CROSS LAKE	FLIN FLON	GILLAM	GOD'S LAKE NARROWS	GRAND RAPIDS	ISLAND LAKE
1 L MILK	...	1.26	1.83	1.49	1.32	1.42	2.69	1.50	2.79
454 G BUTTER	3.74	2.99	3.27	3.24	3.32	3.14	3.69	3.45	3.99
454 G CHEDDAR CHEESE	...	6.99	7.59	7.99	8.02	6.59	...	6.46	8.39
525 G CORN FLAKES	5.84	3.79	4.19	4.49	4.09	3.69	4.88	...	4.99
5 KG FLOUR	11.19	5.99	8.49	8.99	9.29	...	...	...	10.49
500 G MACARONI	2.39	1.49	1.89	2.04	1.94	...	2.39	1.63	2.19
675 G WHITE BREAD	...	1.99	...	1.69	...	...	...	...	...
907 G MARGARINE	...	4.94	...	5.64	5.19	5.39	...	...	7.49
1 L COOKING OIL	5.79	3.99	5.07	4.69	3.79	3.95	...	3.76	6.29
500 G BACON	5.49	4.84	...	4.19	4.29	...	4.19	...	5.29
1 KG ROUND STEAK	...	7.19	9.89	9.83	9.94	9.69	...	...	11.89
1 KG BLADE ROAST	...	7.25	...	8.49	6.59	8.49	...	...	...
1 KG STEWING BEEF	8.35	7.18	7.69	7.10	7.29	7.19	8.99	7.09	9.99
1 KG GROUND BEEF	6.94	2.84	5.69	4.18	3.51	...	5.59	...	9.99
1 KG PORK CHOPS	10.49	8.28	15.89	9.64	9.90	13.99	...	6.60	...
450 G WEINERS	3.29	3.64	...	3.39	3.24	3.29	3.09	...	...
340 G LUNCHEON MEAT	3.64	2.89	2.99	2.69	3.02	2.79	3.68	3.04	3.79
1 KG CHICKEN	...	4.68	...	5.47	...	5.79	...	5.09	8.79
213 G PINK SALMON	2.74	2.19	2.39	2.54	2.89	1.89	...	...	...
1 DOZ. LARGE EGGS	2.24	1.80	2.09	2.29	1.92	1.99	2.89	2.30	3.39
1 KG ORANGES	3.28	2.06	3.23	2.18	2.62	3.35	3.59	3.36	4.99
1 KG APPLES	...	2.06	3.22	2.96	2.84	3.15	...	2.13	5.19
398 ML CANNED PEACHES	...	1.94	1.99	2.19	2.19	1.79	2.79	1.82	2.89
1 L ORANGE JUICE	2.74	1.69	2.19	1.99	1.92	1.79	3.49	...	3.69
4.54 KG POTATOES	6.29	3.44	5.52	3.89	4.94	4.35	10.39	4.54	11.99
907 G CARROTS	2.97	1.24	1.54	1.29	1.09	1.29	3.19	2.65	3.09
1.36 KG ONIONS	4.69	1.34	1.98	1.84	1.08	1.69	...	2.11	4.79
1 HEAD LETTUCE	2.39	1.74	1.55	1.44	1.39	1.50	1.59	1.50	2.99
398 ML CANNED PEAS	1.69	1.19	1.69	1.59	1.52	1.35	...	1.44	...
398 ML BAKED BEANS	1.69	1.12	1.49	1.39	1.27	1.05	1.99	1.08	2.19
1 KG FROZEN POTATOES	3.84	2.64	4.59	...	2.84	2.75	4.19	...	5.19
225 G MACARONI & CHEESE	1.79	0.99	1.54	1.34	1.17	1.05	1.69	1.20	1.79
284 ML CANNED SOUP	1.29	0.74	1.25	0.99	0.82	0.85	1.49	0.93	1.29
500 ML PEANUT BUTTER	5.69	3.74	4.14	3.99	4.62	3.29	4.59	3.99	4.89
500 ML STRAWBERRY JAM	4.99	4.24	5.39	4.24	5.17	4.05	5.69	5.60	6.09
4 KG SUGAR	6.00	4.24	5.95	5.14	5.04	5.95	7.89	5.11	7.99
200 G INSTANT COFFEE	9.34	5.74	...	9.64	8.12	5.59	...	...	8.09
1 L SOFT DRINK	2.34	...	2.49	1.79	1.84	1.85	3.79	...	4.29

... DATA NOT AVAILABLE

DATA SOURCE: MANITOBA BUREAU OF STATISTICS
PRICES MONITORING SURVEY

II. Average Food Prices:

Table 2 presents average retail prices for 38 specific items from the December 1999 Prices Monitoring Survey. Identical brands have been used for calculation of average prices therefore prices are not available for all food items in all communities.

This table is not only an indicator of relative prices but can also be used to indicate the degree of food selection available in each community. For instance, in South Indian Lake, only 21 of the 38 items included in this table were available in the community at the time of the survey. Selection is also indicated to be relatively poor in God's Lake Narrows and Grand Rapids (each with 24 of the 38 items), Wabowden (25 items) and Berens River (29 items).

In contrast, all 38 of the selected items were available in stores in Winnipeg, Leaf Rapids and Snow Lake. In Brandon, The Pas and Cross Lake 37 of these items were available, while 36 were available in Flin Flon and 35 were available in Thompson and Norway House.

The number of items matched to Winnipeg also has ramifications for the validity of the indices calculated. In general, fewer matches for a community will result in a less valid food price index, because each item matched has a greater relative contribution to the community index.

One litre of Homogenized Milk is least expensive in Winnipeg and Brandon, averaging $1.26 in both cities. It is most expensive in Island Lake ($2.79), God's Lake Narrows ($2.69) and Churchill ($1.83), although prices for this item were not available in South Indian Lake or Berens River. In the remaining communities the price ranged from $1.32 per litre in Flin Flon to $1.59 in Norway House.

Winnipeg had the lowest price for one pound of Butter (454 grams) at $2.87, followed by Brandon at $2.99 and Gillam at $3.14. The highest prices for butter were $3.99 in Island Lake and $3.74 in Berens River.

A five kilogram bag of white all purpose Flour ranged from a low of $5.99 in Brandon to a high of $11.19 in Berens River. The next lowest prices were $6.74 in Winnipeg, $6.89 in Thompson and $7.99 in Wabowden. The next highest prices were $10.85 in Snow Lake and $10.49 in Island Lake.

Elbow Macaroni (500 gram box), with an average price of only $1.00, was obviously on sale in Winnipeg. The next lowest price was $1.49 in Brandon, while the highest price was $2.39 in Berens River and God's Lake Narrows. The average price for this item was $1.89 in 5 communities; Churchill, Lynn Lake, South Indian Lake, The Pas and Wabowden.

A particular brand of Margarine (907 grams) was $4.56 in Winnipeg, but almost certainly on sale in Norway House at $3.89. This item was $4.94 in Brandon and Thompson and $4.99 in The Pas. Margarine was most expensive in Island Lake ($7.49), Lynn Lake ($6.09) and Wabowden ($5.99).

One litre of Cooking Oil was $4.06 in Winnipeg but priced lower in a number of other communities; $3.76 in Grand Rapids, $3.79 in Flin Flon, $3.85 in Leaf Rapids, $3.95 in Gillam and $3.99 in both Brandon and Thompson. Highest prices were $6.29 in Island Lake and $5.79 in Berens River.

TABLE 2: (Cont.) **AVERAGE RETAIL FOOD PRICES FOR SELECTED MANITOBA COMMUNITIES**

DECEMBER, 1999

FOOD ITEMS	LEAF RAPIDS	LYNN LAKE	NORWAY HOUSE	SNOW LAKE	SOUTH INDIAN LAKE	THE PAS	THOMPSON	WABOWDEN	WINNIPEG
1 L MILK	1.55	1.55	1.59	1.44	...	1.34	1.33	1.45	1.26
454 G BUTTER	3.55	3.54	3.49	3.62	3.25	3.36	3.29	3.25	2.87
454 G CHEDDAR CHEESE	6.95	7.59	6.99	7.09	...	6.19	...	...	7.06
525 G CORN FLAKES	4.85	...	...	3.74	2.99	4.22	4.09	3.99	3.96
5 KG FLOUR	8.65	9.49	8.99	10.85	9.45	8.74	6.89	7.99	6.74
500 G MACARONI	1.69	1.89	1.77	1.79	1.89	1.89	...	1.89	1.00
675 G WHITE BREAD	2.65	2.45	...	2.09	...	1.69	1.99	1.99	1.99
907 G MARGARINE	5.69	6.09	3.89	5.19	...	4.99	4.94	5.99	4.56
1 L COOKING OIL	3.85	4.99	4.54	4.19	...	4.09	3.99	...	4.06
500 G BACON	4.89	4.69	4.69	4.32	...	4.04	5.14	...	4.52
1 KG ROUND STEAK	11.59	...	9.99	8.99	...	9.99	9.22	...	7.97
1 KG BLADE ROAST	8.99	7.49	7.39	6.99	...	...	...	6.45	7.18
1 KG STEWING BEEF	8.19	7.49	7.09	6.02	8.79	8.80	7.91	5.95	6.54
1 KG GROUND BEEF	4.09	4.39	3.99	2.99	...	4.17	3.60	...	2.50
1 KG PORK CHOPS	9.09	8.59	8.99	8.59	...	11.99	10.54	...	8.68
450 G WEINERS	3.49	3.09	3.39	3.59	...	3.09	3.89	...	3.74
340 G LUNCHEON MEAT	3.15	3.25	2.74	3.09	2.79	2.24	2.99	3.29	2.76
1 KG CHICKEN	6.19	5.59	5.69	4.44	6.99	5.66	4.60	3.95	5.13
213 G PINK SALMON	2.35	...	2.35	2.39	...	2.59	2.19	...	2.19
1 DOZ. LARGE EGGS	1.99	2.19	2.24	1.99	2.45	2.12	1.88	2.25	1.75
1 KG ORANGES	3.03	3.06	2.79	2.19	3.99	2.18	2.39	2.69	2.18
1 KG APPLES	2.62	2.99	2.84	2.29	...	2.48	2.18	2.49	2.31
398 ML CANNED PEACHES	2.00	2.19	2.19	2.09	2.25	1.94	1.94	2.19	1.94
1 L ORANGE JUICE	2.15	1.49	2.20	2.09	2.19	1.59	1.74	1.75	1.51
4.54 KG POTATOES	4.49	4.99	4.34	3.79	5.29	3.74	3.98	3.99	3.34
907 G CARROTS	1.29	1.49	1.29	1.45	2.89	1.09	1.14	1.09	1.16
1.36 KG ONIONS	1.49	2.39	1.24	1.94	...	1.29	1.24	1.49	1.29
1 HEAD LETTUCE	1.49	1.29	1.14	1.07	1.79	0.99	1.64	...	1.58
398 ML CANNED PEAS	1.45	...	1.69	1.64	1.65	1.34	1.39	1.59	1.24
398 ML BAKED BEANS	1.19	1.29	1.47	1.49	1.45	1.34	1.09	1.45	1.10
1 KG FROZEN POTATOES	2.99	3.05	3.24	3.72	...	2.99	2.79	...	2.66
225 G MACARONI & CHEESE	1.05	1.39	1.59	1.34	1.39	1.24	0.98	1.39	1.02
284 ML CANNED SOUP	1.09	1.09	1.02	0.89	1.05	0.56	0.77	1.09	0.69
500 ML PEANUT BUTTER	3.69	4.05	4.29	3.99	3.99	3.99	3.99	...	3.59
500 ML STRAWBERRY JAM	4.79	4.69	5.29	4.74	4.69	5.19	4.48	...	3.99
4 KG SUGAR	5.85	6.15	5.19	5.73	...	4.89	4.24	6.59	4.42
200 G INSTANT COFFEE	6.39	7.19	8.14	7.84	7.19	7.44	5.99	...	6.12
1 L SOFT DRINK	1.79	1.99	...	1.84	...	1.59	1.48	1.89	1.29

... DATA NOT AVAILABLE

DATA SOURCE: MANITOBA BUREAU OF STATISTICS
PRICES MONITORING SURVEY

The lowest prices for regular Ground Beef were $2.50 per kilogram in Winnipeg, $2.84 in Brandon, and $2.99 in Snow Lake. It was most expensive in Island Lake, at $9.99 per kilogram. In the remaining communities, the price ranged between $3.51 in Flin Flon and $6.94 in Berens River.

The lowest price for centre cut Pork Chops was $6.60 in Grand Rapids. Next lowest was $8.28 in Brandon, $8.59 in Lynn Lake and Snow Lake and $8.69 in Winnipeg. Pork chops were priced highest in Churchill ($15.89), Gillam ($13.99) and The Pas ($11.99).

The average price for Chicken (whole cut-up) was $3.95 per kilogram in Wabowden, $4.44 in Snow Lake, $4.60 in Thompson, $4.68 in Brandon and $5.13 in Winnipeg. The highest prices were $8.79 in Island Lake and $6.99 in South Indian Lake.

The price for one dozen large Eggs ranged from $1.75 in Winnipeg, $1.80 in Brandon and $1.88 in Thompson, to $2.45 in South Indian Lake, $2.89 in God's Lake Narrows and $3.39 in Island Lake.

Medium sized navel Oranges were priced at $2.06 in Brandon, $2.18 in Winnipeg, Cross Lake and The Pas and $2.19 in Snow Lake. The highest price was $4.99 in Island Lake, followed by $3.99 in South Indian Lake and $3.59 in God's Lake Narrows.

A ten pound bag of Red Potatoes (4.54 kilogram) was priced lowest in Winnipeg at $3.34, and Brandon at $3.44. Highest prices were $11.99 in Island Lake and $10.39 in God's Lake Narrows. Elsewhere, the price for ten pounds of potatoes ranged from $3.74 in The Pas to $6.29 in Berens River.

A 907 gram bag of Carrots was priced lowest at $1.09 in Flin Flon, The Pas and Wabowden, $1.14 in Thompson, and $1.16 in Winnipeg. The highest carrot prices were $3.19 in God's Lake Narrows, $3.09 in Island Lake, $2.97 in Berens River, $2.89 in South Indian Lake and $2.65 in Grand Rapids.

The lowest prices for one kilogram of frozen French Fries were $2.64 in Brandon and $2.66 in Winnipeg. Highest prices were $5.19 in Island Lake, $4.59 in Churchill and $4.19 in God's Lake Narrows. Elsewhere, the price of french fries ranged from $2.75 in Gillam to $3.84 in Berens River.

Macaroni and Cheese Dinners were $0.98 in Thompson, $0.99 in Brandon, $1.02 in Winnipeg and $1.05 in Gillam and Leaf Rapids. The highest prices were $1.79 in Berens River and Island Lake, and $1.69 in God's Lake Narrows.

The lowest prices for four kilograms of White Sugar were $4.24 in Brandon and Thompson and $4.42 in Winnipeg. The highest price for sugar was $7.99 in Island Lake, followed by $7.89 in God's Lake Narrows and $6.59 in Wabowden.

Instant Coffee (200 gram jar) was priced lowest in Gillam at $5.59, followed by Brandon at $5.74, Thompson at $5.99 and Winnipeg at $6.12. Coffee was most expensive in Cross Lake at $9.64, followed by Berens River at $9.34, Norway House at $8.14 and Flin Flon at $8.12.

The price of a one litre Soft Drink averaged $1.29 in Winnipeg, with the next lowest price being $1.48 in Thompson. Highest prices were $4.29 in Island Lake, $3.79 in God's Lake Narrows, $2.49 in Churchill and $2.34 in Berens River.

APPENDIX

1998 SURVEY RESULTS

TABLE 3: SPATIAL RETAIL FOOD PRICE INDICES FOR SELECTED MANITOBA COMMUNITIES

DECEMBER, 1998

FOOD GROUPS	BERENS RIVER	BRANDON	CHURCHILL	CROSS LAKE	FLIN FLON	GILLAM	GOD'S LAKE NARROWS	GRAND RAPIDS	ISLAND LAKE
				(WINNIPEG = 100.0)					
DAIRY PRODUCTS	185.0	100.9	155.7	132.5	118.9	130.9	200.1	133.7	233.5
CEREAL & BAKERY PRODUCTS	148.3	102.2	138.7	123.7	114.4	107.6	149.5	114.7	169.4
FATS & OILS	148.5	101.4	125.4	121.8	119.0	105.8	166.9	104.5	159.2
MEAT, POULTRY & FISH	130.2	103.2	126.1	120.2	119.2	119.2	167.0	108.9	161.4
Meat	131.7	104.3	130.4	119.8	120.4	122.0	175.2	107.0	151.7
Poultry	129.1	100.4	118.6	128.2	113.6	114.6	162.0	109.6	178.2
Fish	122.4	101.3	112.5	108.4	122.1	109.4	123.3	119.6	192.6
EGGS	133.4	103.3	125.3	133.1	115.3	122.3	169.5	137.1	199.2
FRUIT & VEGETABLES	183.1	100.6	153.5	126.4	119.4	130.4	177.0	130.7	216.6
Fresh Fruit	202.9	97.6	158.9	123.3	112.4	134.9	161.9	143.0	228.2
Processed Fruit	161.2	101.9	145.8	126.8	124.9	117.9	167.5	112.1	184.4
Fresh Vegetables	189.4	101.1	159.9	129.5	120.5	139.0	206.2	132.3	243.8
Processed Vegetables	141.2	107.0	130.2	127.1	128.6	115.0	156.0	125.4	158.6
FROZEN FOODS	154.3	104.6	143.3	133.6	120.1	110.1	158.4	111.5	179.9
DISHES & SNACKS	144.8	106.1	158.9	124.8	120.9	121.2	166.0	133.0	166.0
OTHER FOODS	151.3	102.4	138.1	132.9	114.6	112.5	155.0	116.6	165.3
BEVERAGES	146.4	103.6	160.9	133.3	130.9	121.1	143.6	131.5	153.9
COMMUNITY INDEX	154.9	102.3	143.0	126.7	119.4	120.4	167.2	121.1	183.3

... DATA NOT AVAILABLE

DATA SOURCE: MANITOBA BUREAU OF STATISTICS
PRICES MONITORING SURVEY

TABLE 3: (Cont.) **SPATIAL RETAIL FOOD PRICE INDICES FOR SELECTED MANITOBA COMMUNITIES**

DECEMBER, 1998

FOOD GROUPS	LEAF RAPIDS	LYNN LAKE	NORWAY HOUSE	SNOW LAKE	SOUTH INDIAN LAKE	THE PAS	THOMPSON	WABOWDEN
				(WINNIPEG = 100.0)				
DAIRY PRODUCTS	129.8	132.6	129.1	130.7	203.6	123.3	114.9	136.8
CEREAL & BAKERY PRODUCTS	126.0	128.9	127.2	122.3	132.5	115.5	111.8	119.8
FATS & OILS	114.5	127.7	123.4	122.4	116.0	118.6	106.0	128.0
MEAT, POULTRY & FISH	123.5	121.6	123.6	113.9	120.8	113.4	108.5	114.8
Meat	123.8	122.6	127.3	116.1	117.0	112.7	110.9	119.1
Poultry	129.2	119.5	109.4	106.5	132.0	115.4	102.8	97.5
Fish	110.9	119.7	126.1	113.3	124.5	114.0	103.9	118.9
EGGS	116.8	134.6	134.7	120.6	151.3	131.9	105.7	131.0
FRUIT & VEGETABLES	135.9	147.9	121.1	129.2	174.3	115.5	108.9	121.6
Fresh Fruit	150.8	158.7	112.8	131.6	194.7	108.8	108.9	127.7
Processed Fruit	126.5	132.1	110.9	129.6	128.3	114.6	102.4	119.2
Fresh Vegetables	129.3	152.0	132.6	127.4	195.5	121.1	113.1	113.6
Processed Vegetables	125.8	131.7	137.9	125.3	138.0	123.9	110.3	131.5
FROZEN FOODS	121.5	135.0	130.2	133.8	124.0	120.3	108.3	131.8
DISHES & SNACKS	128.0	149.8	123.6	129.1	148.0	137.5	105.5	130.9
OTHER FOODS	116.3	132.6	131.6	125.2	130.4	123.5	106.3	131.4
BEVERAGES	130.2	149.2	135.5	133.2	135.2	126.7	112.7	140.5
COMMUNITY INDEX	127.0	133.9	126.8	124.4	147.3	118.8	110.2	125.4

... DATA NOT AVAILABLE

DATA SOURCE: MANITOBA BUREAU OF STATISTICS
PRICES MONITORING SURVEY

TABLE 4: AVERAGE RETAIL FOOD PRICES FOR SELECTED MANITOBA COMMUNITIES

DECEMBER, 1998

FOOD ITEMS	BERENS RIVER	BRANDON	CHURCHILL	CROSS LAKE	FLIN FLON	GILLAM	GOD'S LAKE NARROWS	GRAND RAPIDS	ISLAND LAKE
1 L MILK	...	1.25	1.83	1.49	1.27	1.46	...	1.50	2.79
454 G BUTTER	4.19	2.92	3.29	3.69	3.29	3.31	3.69	3.45	3.99
454 G CHEDDAR CHEESE	7.89	5.99	7.45	7.94	7.94	6.49	7.69	...	8.39
525 G CORN FLAKES	5.29	3.79	4.19	4.39	4.09	3.65	4.49	3.65	4.89
5 KG FLOUR	11.19	6.19	10.39	8.34	9.29	8.15	...	8.49	...
500 G MACARONI	1.99	1.49	...	1.54	1.94	...	...	1.69	2.19
675 G WHITE BREAD	3.19	1.99	...	...	2.05	...	3.29	...	...
907 G MARGARINE	...	4.64	5.99	5.44	5.04	4.85	...	...	7.19
1 L COOKING OIL	5.49	3.79	4.92	...	4.09	3.95	5.09	3.76	5.59
500 G BACON	...	4.79	4.29	4.89	4.47	...	...	...	...
1 KG ROUND STEAK	11.35	7.78	...	11.05	9.95	9.69	13.99	7.05	11.99
1 KG BLADE ROAST	8.45	7.25	...	5.89	5.71	7.89	9.66	...	...
1 KG STEWING BEEF	9.27	6.00	7.31	6.62	6.76	7.19	...	7.06	...
1 KG GROUND BEEF	...	2.83	5.69	...	3.91	...	7.49	...	...
1 KG PORK CHOPS	10.70	7.60	...	8.58	8.99	6.99	10.25	6.60	11.69
450 G WEINERS	...	3.74	3.39	3.49	3.69	3.49	...	...	...
340 G LUNCHEON MEAT	3.89	2.99	3.24	3.39	3.02	2.79	3.45	3.04	3.49
1 KG CHICKEN	5.93	4.39	5.29	5.89	...	5.79	6.89	5.19	8.39
213 G PINK SALMON	2.49	2.19	...	...	2.64	2.05	...	...	...
1 DOZ. LARGE EGGS	2.24	1.79	2.09	2.25	1.97	1.99	2.89	2.30	3.39
1 KG ORANGES	5.11	2.18	...	3.51	...	2.40	...	2.88	4.49
1 KG APPLES	...	...	2.89	2.40	2.40	2.75	3.67	3.40	4.99
398 ML CANNED PEACHES	2.59	1.89	2.09	2.19	2.19	1.89	2.39	1.82	2.98
1 L ORANGE JUICE	2.79	1.74	2.29	1.94	1.92	...	3.39	1.66	2.79
4.54 KG POTATOES	6.54	2.74	6.49	3.14	3.39	3.25	8.99	3.56	10.99
907 G CARROTS	2.42	0.98	1.60	1.09	1.04	...	2.69	1.16	2.99
1.36 KG ONIONS	...	1.27	...	1.74	1.54	1.80	...	1.97	4.89
1 HEAD LETTUCE	1.78	1.14	1.23	1.14	1.19	1.39	2.39	0.85	1.23
398 ML CANNED PEAS	1.99	1.39	...	1.69	1.44	1.35	1.79	1.42	...
398 ML BAKED BEANS	1.64	1.04	1.49	1.44	1.24	1.05	1.99	1.12	1.89
1 KG FROZEN POTATOES	4.54	2.69	3.39	...	2.89	3.79	4.49	...	...
225 G MACARONI & CHEESE	1.29	0.99	1.49	1.39	1.17	1.35	1.79	1.20	1.89
284 ML CANNED SOUP	1.14	0.73	1.22	1.07	0.82	0.85	1.09	0.93	1.29
500 ML PEANUT BUTTER	4.44	3.54	3.64	3.99	4.62	...	4.59	...	5.09
500 ML STRAWBERRY JAM	6.09	3.98	5.69	5.24	5.17	4.49	6.19	...	6.49
4 KG SUGAR	6.74	3.99	6.59	5.04	5.19	6.05	...	5.30	7.99
200 G INSTANT COFFEE	9.92	7.39	9.99	9.94	8.12	...	10.69	9.61	...
1 L SOFT DRINK	...	...	2.49	1.79	1.84	1.83	...	...	...

... DATA NOT AVAILABLE

DATA SOURCE: MANITOBA BUREAU OF STATISTICS
PRICES MONITORING SURVEY

TABLE 4: (Cont.) **AVERAGE RETAIL FOOD PRICES FOR SELECTED MANITOBA COMMUNITIES**

DECEMBER, 1998

FOOD ITEMS	LEAF RAPIDS	LYNN LAKE	NORWAY HOUSE	SNOW LAKE	SOUTH INDIAN LAKE	THE PAS	THOMPSON	WABOWDEN	WINNIPEG
1 L MILK	1.55	1.55	1.44	1.50	...	1.35	1.33	1.45	1.26
454 G BUTTER	3.55	3.69	3.94	3.52	3.99	3.64	3.04	3.25	2.89
454 G CHEDDAR CHEESE	6.85	7.45	7.49	7.22	7.35	6.99	5.99	...	6.06
525 G CORN FLAKES	...	...	4.29	4.29	...	4.39	3.20	4.39	3.15
5 KG FLOUR	8.65	9.49	8.99	8.69	9.49	8.04	7.94	7.99	6.42
500 G MACARONI	1.65	1.89	1.97	1.79	1.89	2.04	1.69	1.89	1.34
675 G WHITE BREAD	2.65	2.45	...	2.49	...	2.19	...	1.85	1.99
907 G MARGARINE	5.35	5.75	5.49	5.44	...	4.99	4.79	...	4.17
1 L COOKING OIL	...	4.99	4.52	4.57	4.85	4.09	3.64	...	3.79
500 G BACON	...	4.69	4.44	3.79	...	3.89	4.29	...	4.19
1 KG ROUND STEAK	11.59	8.99	...	...	...	8.80	8.80	9.25	7.98
1 KG BLADE ROAST	5.49	6.39	7.19	...	...	...	6.02	...	6.48
1 KG STEWING BEEF	...	7.39	7.04	6.62	...	8.80	5.09	5.85	6.05
1 KG GROUND BEEF	4.09	4.79	4.76	3.70	...	3.18	3.17	4.37	2.60
1 KG PORK CHOPS	9.09	...	10.99	11.08	8.09	12.95	8.78	...	7.70
450 G WEINERS	3.59	...	3.04	3.79	...	2.84	3.64	...	3.37
340 G LUNCHEON MEAT	3.15	3.25	3.29	3.09	2.99	3.79	2.99	3.39	2.87
1 KG CHICKEN	6.09	5.59	5.35	4.39	...	5.95	4.71	4.29	4.50
213 G PINK SALMON	...	...	...	2.39	...	2.69	2.19	2.39	1.99
1 DOZ. LARGE EGGS	1.99	2.19	2.59	2.02	2.59	2.29	1.88	2.20	1.63
1 KG ORANGES	...	2.53	2.19	2.48	...	2.99	2.16	2.59	2.18
1 KG APPLES	2.62	3.19	2.73	...	...	2.40	2.17	2.49	1.94
398 ML CANNED PEACHES	1.95	2.19	2.24	1.99	2.25	2.19	1.99	...	1.92
1 L ORANGE JUICE	2.15	2.19	1.69	2.19	2.25	1.89	1.74	1.75	1.69
4.54 KG POTATOES	3.59	4.29	2.94	3.67	...	2.99	3.69	3.49	2.60
907 G CARROTS	1.29	1.29	0.99	1.27	1.79	...	0.99	0.99	1.39
1.36 KG ONIONS	1.69	1.28	1.74	1.89	...	1.59	1.39	1.19	1.27
1 HEAD LETTUCE	1.39	1.29	0.94	1.07	1.75	1.09	0.99	1.09	1.23
398 ML CANNED PEAS	1.45	1.65	1.69	1.69	1.65	1.79	1.39	...	1.21
398 ML BAKED BEANS	1.19	1.45	1.32	1.44	1.55	1.39	1.09	1.45	0.95
1 KG FROZEN POTATOES	2.85	3.35	3.19	3.99	3.45	2.79	2.89	...	2.77
225 G MACARONI & CHEESE	1.09	1.49	1.29	1.37	1.19	1.19	0.99	1.49	0.99
284 ML CANNED SOUP	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.94	...	0.99	0.78	1.25	0.68
500 ML PEANUT BUTTER	3.95	4.29	4.39	4.04	4.25	4.69	3.89	4.39	3.91
500 ML STRAWBERRY JAM	5.19	5.19	5.29	4.99	...	5.39	4.24	5.19	4.11
4 KG SUGAR	5.99	6.69	5.09	6.42	6.69	5.19	4.59	5.99	4.06
200 G INSTANT COFFEE	7.55	8.69	9.09	8.24	...	7.59	7.38	8.99	7.09
1 L SOFT DRINK	1.79	2.14	1.92	1.75	1.75	1.59	1.44	1.99	1.29

... DATA NOT AVAILABLE

DATA SOURCE: MANITOBA BUREAU OF STATISTICS
PRICES MONITORING SURVEY